



IMAGES

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NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE ALUMNI OF REDEEMER COLLEGE

Liberal arts and the modern workplace

Alumni find success in careers unrelated to major

LLOYD W. RANG (89)

There is a good chance you know some one from Redeemer who majored in one thing but works in a completely different field now. This issue of Images looks at what role a liberal arts education has in preparing graduates for employment (see related story p. 2). This is especially relevant in the context of a world that is becoming increasingly fragmented, and a workforce that is becoming more and more technologically specialized.

"You know all that stuff Redeemer told us years ago about liberal arts degrees being flexible and desirable? It's all true." So says Heleen Wolfert (History, 90), presently a Business Analyst for the Guardian Group of Funds, a mutual fund parent company in Toronto. Originally, she had planned to study history at the graduate level. Now she's working in the business world, yet without a business degree.

Wolfert was originally placed at Guardian through a "temp" agency, but was hired on full time, partly she says, because of her liberal arts training. The ability to communicate and solve problems, the type of skills that a liberal arts

training develops, are keys to her job. For example, Wolfert says, "When I was first at Redeemer, I didn't even know where the 'on' button was on a computer; now I adapt computer software to meet client needs."

Another alumna who is using his liberal arts education in the field of computers is Mark Luimes (History/Chemistry, 90). His company, NetAccess, is an internet service provider based in Hamilton.

"I've had to learn a lot of things on the job", he says, "practical things like how to balance books, that sort of thing." Being schooled in the Scientific Method has helped with the learning curve. So many people, he claims, try to solve problems by trial and error, instead of trying to plan out a way to the solution. "Physics and calculus should be required courses for everybody."

When it comes to the Internet itself, Luimes is excited, yet pensive. "The Internet is as significant as the printing press. (Although) it's hard to predict what will happen, the historical example of Gutenberg, gives you an idea of the kind of impact technology has on societies."

No matter what the future holds, Luimes believes the kind of "all-around" education provided by Redeemer helps him

put his work into context. Luimes speaks highly of his Redeemer education, especially the faculty. He appreciates their openness to hearing secular points of view,

which might not be true of secular institutions and Christian points of view.

Don Stelpstra (Psychology, 87) agrees with Luimes. A District Sales Supervisor for Voortman Cookies, he's especially glad to have taken the required religion

courses, especially Reformation Theology. These courses provided a strong background for a Christian entering the world of business. He too underscores the communication and problem solving skills he picked up at Redeemer. "Right now, it's

an employees marketplace. As recent grads with a degree, we're in demand. We're not locked into our parent's jobs or careers for life, because the liberal arts degree gives a person the portable skills that the modern marketplace demands."

Another benefit, according to all three graduates, is the ability to talk to people. Being broadly educated gives you

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Heleen Wolfert



Mark Luimes



Don Stelpstra

IMAGES

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EDITORIAL

Making the best out of an unchallenging job

ALISON GRESIK (86)

It is a reality that some Redeemer students, myself included, are finding themselves "over-educated" for the jobs they are able to secure. Clerical and manual labour positions, for instance, don't usually require a university degree.

But with the job market the way it is, there is a great deal of competition for the more professional jobs that a university graduate would be inclined to pursue, and we find ourselves "stopping the gap" with something that pays, but doesn't necessarily put us on our chosen career path.

This can be a frustrating experience. After finishing with my university degree, I found an administrative assistant position with a real estate investment company. I went from editing the university paper and writing twenty-page research papers to spending my afternoons photocopying and typing letters, which left me bored and somewhat resentful.

After developing a certain amount of status and responsibility in university, all of a sudden I was the menial at the bottom of the ladder.

But I didn't go to Redeemer College so that it would get me a good job -- I went to develop the abilities that God has given me, and because what I learned



Alison Gresik

there would enhance the quality of my life.

University taught me how to learn, using curiosity, initiative, discipline and creativity. I was encouraged to give careful thought what I learned, and to express my thoughts articulately.

These skills can be applied in any situation,

including a real estate office, and being more involved and thoughtful with everything I do has given me a great deal of satisfaction.

I've tried to learn as much as I can about real estate by asking questions and reading what I type or photocopy, and I've had a chance to practise my writing and editing skills when producing reports for clients. It's not Shakespeare, but at least my brain isn't going to seed.

I don't expect that those of us who are looking for something more challenging down the road will be stuck in dead-end jobs for the rest of their lives. But seeing my education as a way of life rather than a means to an end helps me put my present job in perspective.

The Reformed faith emphasizes that we can serve God in any vocation, from pastor to scientist to secretary. And regardless of what I do from 9 to 5, there are always opportunities to incorporate my learning, like my faith, into all my life.

Alumni Leadership Award goes to Holowenko

Fervone Holowenko is this year's recipient of the Alumni Leadership Award.

Awarded each year to a student entering his or her final year of studies, the Alumni Leadership Award (ALA) is a \$500 scholarship funded in part by alumni donations to the College.



Fervone Holowenko, 1995-96 Alumni Leadership Award winner.

The ALA recognizes the contributions to Redeemer that a student has made to Redeemer through extra-curricular activities, leadership abilities, and an integration of faith and learning.

Fervone, from Westlock, AB is working towards an honours degree in Biology with a Chemistry minor, with the goal of doing graduate work in immunotoxicology.

Fervone has been involved in a variety of ways at Redeemer, but her focus has been on promoting the sciences, both at Redeemer and off-campus. As a tutor, lab assistant, judge for science fairs and leader of the Environmental Club, Fervone has done much to increase the awareness of science and scientific issues. She has also volunteered a lot of her time to welcome prospective students to Redeemer, and has been an active member of Cell Groups.

Fervone was one of several very strong applications for this year's award. The Alumni Association is proud to be able to assist such gifted and giving people as Fervone, and we wish her God's blessings as she continues to serve Him at Redeemer College.

Alumni membership program continues

As a constituency-based institution, Redeemer College needs the guidance and support that it receives from its broad membership base. With the creation of the reduced rate for alumni, it has become even easier to remain involved with the College. Alumni can become full members, with all

the voting and nominating privileges, for \$60 per year. The Alumni Board hopes that you too will demonstrate your support for Redeemer by becoming a member. Please send in the Membership Form that you received earlier this summer, or call the Alumni Office for more details.

Welcoming back Class of 86

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Redeemer's first graduates, the Class of 86.

To mark this event, the Alumni Association and the College are planning the first of what will become an annual celebration recognizing the 10th anniversary of the graduating class.

This celebration, called Homecoming, is combined with the College's Fall Fest (see details in Re-

flections) on Saturday, October 5, 1996. Besides the Fall Fest activities however, there is a banquet and program in the evening exclusively for alumni.

Although special attention will be given to the Class of '86, all alumni are invited to participate. We especially would like to encourage those who studied at Redeemer from 1982-86, but who did not pursue a degree, to come out for this event.

For further information and to confirm your place at the banquet, please see the information package that was sent to you earlier this summer, or call the Alumni Office at Redeemer College, (905) 648-2131.



Modern workplace

...Cont'd from page 1

knowledge in all areas, and allows you to communicate with a wide variety of people. Each felt that their liberal arts training has helped them to be comfortable in new situations and with a range of different people. The "soft skills" of communication, adaptability and logical problem solving, fostered in a Christian liberal arts environment that encourages exploration and diversity of thought, have helped alumni prosper in their work, in some cases more so than the content of their major.

Election to be held for three new Board members

As part of Fall Fest, the Alumni Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5, 1996, at 1:15 pm (room TBA). All alumni are encouraged

to participate in the meeting; not only will you have the opportunity to vote for new Board officers, but there you will also have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input into how the Board is functioning.

If you are unable to attend this year's membership meeting, but would still like to vote for Board positions, you may send in a proxy ballot. The ballot must be signed and returned to the Alumni Office no later than October 4, 1996. If you and your spouse (if you are both alumni) would both like to vote, please photocopy the ballot. An alumnus of Redeemer College is someone who has successfully completed at least 8 courses.

This year marks the end of service for a number of Board members. We are grateful for the work that Wendy Bulthuis and Sonja Oegema have done for the Associa-

tion and the College during the course of their three year terms. Unfortunately, Alison Gresik has also resigned from the Board in order to continue graduate studies in Alberta.

NOMINEES:

The following people have been nominated to serve three year terms on the Alumni Board. The Alumni Board is pleased to present for election these very talented candidates.

Mike Bax (Business, 95): Mike is working at the Bible League in Burlington developing youth projects in surrounding Christian

schools.

Gerlad Bierling (Political Science, 86): Gerald earned a Master's degree in political science at McMaster University and is now working there as an Instructional Assistant in the Political Science Department. **Sylvia Haverkamp** (Education, 88): Sylvia is a grade one teacher at John Calvin Christian School in Guelph.

Kevin Huinink (Business, 95): Kevin has been working most recently for the Scott Mission Camp in Toronto.

Eunice Oldejans (Education, 88): Eunice is teaching grades 5 & 6 at John Knox Christian school in Fruitland; she has previously taught for a number of years at

Dunnville Christian School.

Aaron Schat (Psychology, 96): Aaron is currently working at a greenhouse; his future plans include pursuing graduate studies in clinical psychology.

Patti Masengi-Schuurman (French, 94): Patti earned her teaching certificate from Calvin College and is now teaching grades 3 & 4 at Metcalfe Community Christian School near Ottawa.

Doreen Vanderheide (Business, 92): When not being a Big Sister, Doreen is working as a counsellor for Christian Horizons.

Proxy Ballot:

Must be signed and returned to the Alumni Office by Friday, October 4, 1996.

For Member at Large

(Choose 3)

- ☐ Mike Bax
- ☐ Gerald Bierling
- ☐ Sylvia Haverkamp
- ☐ Kevin Huinink
- ☐ Eunice Oldejans
- ☐ Aaron Schat
- ☐ Patti Masengi-Schuurman
- ☐ Doreen Vanderheide



1995-96 Alumni Board

PERSONAL TOUCH

▶ **Walt (x85) & Ellen (Rhebergen 86) Vanderwerf** have returned to Ontario where Walt is pastoring Marantha CRC in St. Catharines. They have four children under 6 who'd love to play with the children of old friends if you want to stop in. Their new address is 10 Logan Street, St. Catharines, ON., L2N 2B5, (905) 934-2721.

▶ **Petra Douma (Boersema, 93)** married Andrew in July 1994. They are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Reuben Aaron, on March 30, 1996. Petra is on maternity leave from Guido de Bres Canadian Reformed High School in Hamilton where she teaches French and English. The Doumas live at 55B Metcalfe Cres., Brantford, ON., N3R 2L7 (519) 756-7576.

▶ **Joanne Haveman (92)** graduated in 1995 from Niagara College's 3-year nursing program as a Registered Nurse. She worked for one year as a Health Care Aide and learned some Dutch at Shalom Manor Home for the Aged. She is presently off to McAllen, Texas to work as an RN on a surgical floor at McAllen Medical Center. Her current local address is 4374 16 Road, St. Anns, ON., L0R 1Y0 (905) 957-2243.

▶ **Marvin (92) and Michelle (93) DeBoer** praise God for their little miracle, Caleb Benjamin. He was born June 2, 1996. Michelle is teaching kindergarten at Wellandport Christian School. Marvin taught there for four years and is now working at Amber Stairs in St. Catharines. They live at 174 Dufferin St., Smithville, ON., L0R 2A0 (905) 957-2707.

▶ **Rev. Ken (90) and Mary Ann (VanStarkenburch, 90) Benjamins** are pleased to announce the birth of Johanna Grace, born May 3, 1996. A sister for Jantina (7), Derek (5) and Anna Marie (2). Mary Ann is a full-time mom and the whole family continues to enjoy Ken's work as a pastor at Wyoming (Ont.) CRC. Their address is P.O. Box 445, Wyoming, ON., N0N 1T0, (519) 845-3442.

▶ **Ed (92) and Joanne (Bouwers, 91) Bosveld** were blessed with a healthy, noisy baby girl in March. Kristen Amanda was welcomed by parents, cat and 2-year old brother Joshua. Ed has transferred to Chatham where he continues to work for Christian Labour Association of Canada. Joanne has her work cut out for her at home with the kids. Their

new address is 141 Valley Rd., Chatham, ON., N7L 5L4 (519) 358-7325.

▶ **Annette (Oosterhof, x84) Shreuders** is thankful to announce that she will be continuing her teaching career after eight years of doing other activities. She has been hired by the Dundas Calvin Christian School to teach Grade 1, 3/4 time. Annette and her husband Rob, with children Stephanie and Michael are adjusting well to their new home at 376 Harvest Rd., Dundas, ON., L9H 5E2.

▶ **Bryan and Judy (91) Alkema** are leaving home, hearth and Hamilton for more exotic climes. As of mid-July, they will be teaching conversational English to 8- to 15-year olds in Korea for a contract year. If you would like to get or give more info on all things Korean, please drop them a note in care of T. & F. Alkema, 10 Tangreen Ct., #904, Willowdale, ON, M2M 4B9. They will cherish literate, legible, letters from you, especially around Christmas and New Year. A monthly (they hope) newsletter will be sent to the Redeemer English pod.

▶ **Colin (86) and Anita (Riebot, 88) Vanderploeg** have moved and now live at 14512 20st., Edmonton, AB, T5Y 1V7 (403) 457-2947. Colin is doing his one-year internship at Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton. The Lord willing, this will be his last year as a student at Calvin Theological Seminary. He is training for ordained minis-

try in the CRC in Canada and hopes to be a candidate next spring. Anita works at home, caring for their three sons Jonathan (7), Derek (5) and Joseph (21 mos.).

▶ **Wayne (x88) and Judy Miedema** recently returned from a 2-year stint in Mozambique with the CRWRC. They have since moved to Guelph where Wayne works as a teacher in the Guelph Correctional Centre. They live at 2-124 Suffolk St. W., Guelph, ON., N1H 2J5.

▶ **Dennis Van Staaldin (94)** is in Ottawa working for Corel Corporation. He is a technical writer for Corel Graphics software, having hootloads of fun with all the high-tech toys there, and still playing squash. So, if you're in town and want a game, he's at 299 Bay Street, Ottawa, ON., K1R 5Z7 (613) 237-4395. E-mail dennisv@corel.ca

▶ **Diane Schelhaas (Wiersma, 88)** and husband Theo are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Jeremy Ryan, born July 25, 1996. Diane will be supply teaching in various Christian schools in the London area, as well as with the Middlesex Public Board of Education again in January. The family resides at 300 Helen Drive, Strathroy, ON N7G 3M3 (519) 246-1709.

▶ **Rob and Patti (Vellinga, 93) De Jong** were blessed with the safe arrival of a little girl, Kristen Patricia, born Nov. 16, 1995. They live at 28 Royalede Way, Waterdown, ON, L0R 2H5.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Name _____
 Class _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Postal Code _____
 Phone (____) _____ E-Mail (?) _____

Do you want your address published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

News of interest _____

